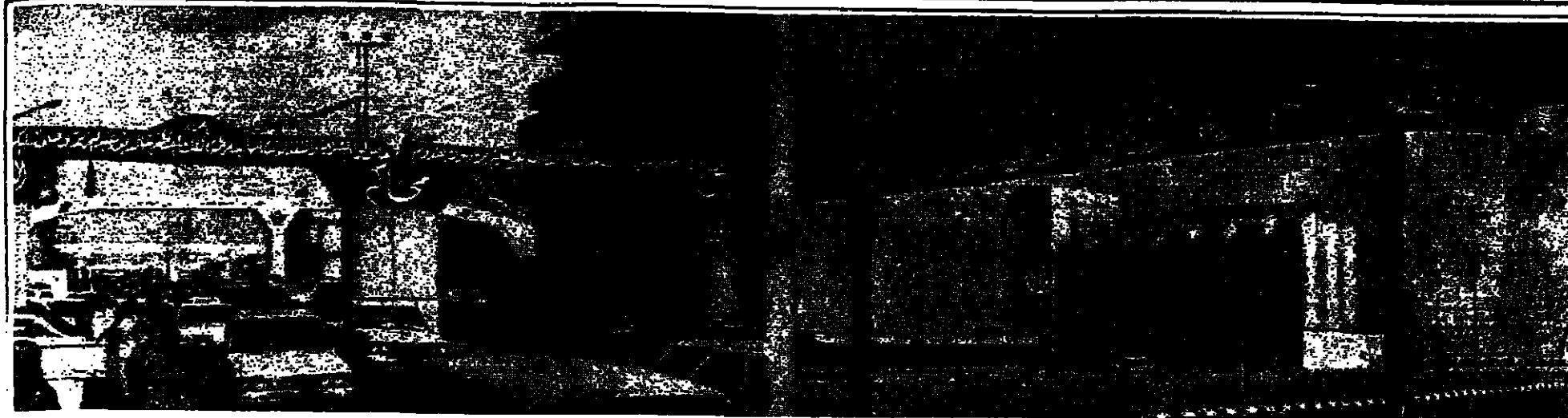


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WELCOME: The towns of the Qasim region went all out Saturday to welcome King Khaled and his party on the first of a two-day visit to meet the people and inspect development projects. Photos show some of the arches erected enroute. (SPA photo)

Khaled in Qasim

QASIM, Dec. 27 (SPA) — King Khaled arrived here on a two-day visit and to inspect several projects. He drove from Riyadh with Crown Prince Fahd, Second Deputy Premier Prince Abdullah and Defense Minister Prince Sultan.

Governor Prince Abdul Illah, leading officials and a large gathering of people welcomed the King. The town was adorned with decorations, lights and arches carrying the King's photo and words of welcome. On his way here he stopped in Mujammah, Ghatt and Zulfi, three of the principal towns of the region to have coffee with the people. Special tents were pitched to accommodate the royal party and the visitors who thronged to greet him.

On Sunday the King will have lunch with the people and attend a special function at the town's main square which was named after him. He will also visit the town of Unalzah.

During his visit the King will dedicate the second phase of the grain silos, which will produce 270 tons of flour a day and will have a storage capacity for 40,000 tons. Attached to it will be a fodder producing plant with a 200-ton capacity per shift of eight hours and a seed cleaning plant with a nine-ton capacity per hour.

The General Manager of Municipal and Rural Affairs here, Sulaiman Al Durabi, said (Continued on back page)

Aide flees Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 27 (AP) — Abdul Rasheed Arain, deputy prime minister in Afghan President Babrak Karmal's cabinet, has fled Afghanistan, according to a report published Saturday in Islamabad's English language daily *The Muslim* newspaper, but he is not in Pakistan. "If the report is confirmed, Arain will be the highest-ranking Afghan government official to flee his country since the Soviet intervention last Dec. 27."

Informed sources said that so far, 1.4 million Afghan refugees have crossed over the Afghan border to Pakistan, some have moved on to Iran and other countries.

Arain is associated with the Khalq (People's) wing of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Kabul's equivalent to the Communist Party.

Yamani to help Thais solve energy problem

By Edward Thangarajah
Arab News Correspondent

BANGKOK, Dec. 27 — Saudi Arabia will maintain the present crude price until the next OPEC meeting in June and will ensure there will be no cut in oil production during January 1981, said Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Yamani during a two-day private visit to Bangkok as guest of the Thai industry minister, Maj-Gen. Chatichai Choonhavan.

As for the future he said, it is not possible to guarantee whether there will be reduction in crude oil supply to the world, as this has to be determined on a monthly basis by OPEC.

The Kingdom's minister said his visit to Thailand has provided him with better understanding of the problems this developing southeast Asian country is facing with regard to its oil supply situation. He promised to do everything possible "to solve it when he gets



Sheikh Zaki Yamani

back home.

The Thai authorities, headed by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda with whom Minister Yamani was doctored in a 20-minute dialogue Saturday morning, urged Saudi Arabia to consider the possibility of selling oil on a government-to-government basis instead of through the Summit Corporation (Panama).

Presently, some 100,000 barrels of oil per day are imported into Thailand through the Summit Corporation and the government here is trying to conduct this transaction on a country-to-country basis. Yamani also thought that the Gulf war has not had any effect on the world oil supply situation.

"In fact," he said, "both Iraq and Iran have resumed exporting their oil and this effort should see the world go through the winter without any difficulty."

"After winter, we might have a little surplus which will naturally go to the OPEC stock-pile," he said. He added that the International Energy Agency's decision to destock oil reserves is an important step toward stabilizing the world market price.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia will give a special price for its crude to oil developing countries he said, "our price is the lowest and we have a unified price for all countries". Yamani left for Sri Lanka Saturday afternoon and is expected to spend a day there conferring with President Junius Jayewardene and Foreign Minister Shanul Hameed.

European options for M.E.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 27 (AP) — The European Common Market has devised a detailed list of options for its Middle East peace initiative, including turning Jerusalem into an international city, a staged withdrawal of Israelis from contested territories and a new international peace-keeping force. *Le Soir* reported Saturday.

The Belgian daily newspaper said the options were approved as "starting points" by the nine Common Market heads of government at a summit meeting Dec. 1-2 in Luxembourg.

Le Soir did not say where it got the options list, which has been a secret. There was no immediate comment from the Belgian Foreign Ministry. According to the report, the Mideast plan consists of the following:

- Withdrawal of Israeli jurisdiction over territories taken over in the 1967 war — areas in Jordan, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights — the withdrawal would be carried out over a two-year period, with "security points" the last areas turned over by Israel.
- The United Nations would supervise the withdrawal with the help of a mixed commission of Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians.
- During the withdrawal, relations between Israel and the Arabs would be normalized under procedures similar to those used in the Camp David accords signed by Israel and Egypt.
- Most Israeli settlements in areas occupied after 1967 would be dismantled. However, Israel would be allowed to keep some of them as "foreign enclaves" in the Arab lands.
- Palestinians would be given an independent state, perhaps with some links to Jordan and Israel.
- Jerusalem would become an international city, with Muslim, Christian and Jewish control over their own religious sites. The rest of the city would be run by a communal authority.
- Palestinians would be allowed to return to the new Palestinian state.

Iran buying arms

TEHRAN, Dec. 27 (AFP) — Iran is buying about \$28 million worth of "light and medium" arms, including Soviet Kalashnikov rifles, on the open armaments market, according to the Majlis deputy speaker, Hojatoleslam Muhammad Mussavi Khoeinha.

King says

A WACS detects attack

JEDDAH, Dec. 27 (SPA) — King Khaled Saturday disclosed that the early warning radar system (AWACS) loaned by the United States in September, detected the movement of jet fighters that attacked Kuwait.

In an interview with two newspapers, King Khaled said that Saudi Arabia was prepared to assist Kuwait when Iranian fighters attacked the northern Kuwaiti border post of Abdali late in September.

As *Siyyasa* of Kuwait and *Al Jazeera* of Riyadh quoted the king in an interview as saying that "We were very much disturbed when Iranian jets attacked Kuwait." He added that "It is no secret that Defense Minister Prince Sultan had received a signal from the aircraft of the early warning system which put us at the ready to assist our brethren in Kuwait."

"Saudi Arabia is linked with Kuwait and the Gulf states with bonds stronger than any agreements," the king was quoted as saying. "Kuwait is our country and its people are our people," he added.

The King said, "We believe we are targeted peoples, hence we have to come together in a practical way." The present political divi-

sions in the region were created by international conditions and circumstances which will disappear in the future as the people become more closely bound to each other, he added.

King Khaled said the forthcoming Islamic summit is important because it is always advisable for Muslim leaders to meet for consultation and advice as enjoined by God — even though all the resolutions passed by it may not be carried out. "It is implementing the consultative spirit of the Islamic Sharia that the conference should concentrate," he said.

Asked about the rupture of diplomatic relations with Libya last October, King Khaled said he had taken the decision because the Libyan leader, Muammar Qaddafi, had offended Islam and Muslim feelings by casting aspersions on some of the holiest injunctions. Qaddafi had made cynical remarks about the pilgrimage which were seriously viewed by the King and other Muslim leaders.

"It was a matter of principle," he said "and I could not have possibly ignored those remarks, whether they were made by Qaddafi or any one else. Islam is a divine message for the happiness and prosperity of mankind and a source of strength and protection for us all."

To boost exports

Iraq to develop oil facilities in Turkey

ANKARA, Dec. 27 (R) — Turkey and Iraq have signed an agreement to develop oil facilities in Turkey after five days of talks between delegations from both countries, it was officially announced. The two neighboring countries will increase the present capacity of the oil pipeline leading from Kirkuk, northern Iraq to Turkey's Mediterranean coast, from 35 million tons to 45-50 million tons annually, according to an economic cooperation protocol signed here Friday.

They also agreed to build an oil refinery, designed to process exportable oil products, and a petrochemicals plant at Yumurtalik, the Turkish terminal of the Iraqi pipeline.

An announcement by the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the two countries would also cooperate in using Iraqi crude for power production. Iraq also agreed to link the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline to a major oil refinery planned for Kirkkale, near Ankara.

The protocol, which Turkish officials said amounted to a binding agreement, for both sides, was signed by Turgut Ozal, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Economic Planner, Tahir Tawfiq, Iraqi

minister of industry and Mineral Resources.

Tawfiq said in a speech after the signing that his country would welcome a Turkish attempt to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war and said Iraq had great confidence in Turkey. Turkey has said it will stay neutral in the conflict. "Turkey should believe that it has a strong and loyal neighbor in Iraq. Any good deed done to us by Turkey, we will repay manifold," Tawfiq said.

The protocol signed Friday did not give any figures for increased oil supplies from Iraq to Turkey but Turkish officials said they had reached a satisfactory agreement. Unofficial sources said Iraq would provide Turkey with at least seven million tons of oil next year. Iraq was to have given five million tons of oil to Turkey this year but oil industry sources say about two thirds of it has not yet been received.

Turkey's use of the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which originate in Turkey and run into Iraq and Syria, was also discussed in the talks. The official announcement said technicians would study the situation for two years and then submit reports to the governments of all three countries.

Colombo Plan:

Stress on energy development for rural environment

By a Special Correspondent

JAKARTA, Dec. 27 — An interesting and important idea recently developed at an international gathering here is the Development of New and Renewable Energy Resources "appropriate for rural utilization and their implications for the environment. The occasion was the 28th Consultative Committee meeting of the Colombo Plan inaugurated by President Suharto and attended by ministers and delegates from member countries of the Colombo Plan which was held at the end of November.

Energy is a subject of much debate and attention worldwide but seems to have been linked to industrial and technological development. The Colombo Plan's initiative to emphasize the development of energy sources for rural progress is in a sense innovative and should tickle economists and planners.

The idea was developed and expounded by Indonesia. It drew enthusiastic support from other Colombo Plan countries who took note of the numerous common problems facing the developing countries of the region of Asia and the Pacific.

Several of them are reportedly engaged in parallel research and development programs, and feel that cooperation between them and the developed countries in meeting these objectives should be beneficial to all. The

meeting of the Consultative Committee, while endorsing the Indonesian paper, agreed that programs of cooperation to be evolved should include such areas as improving energy supply, promoting the transfer of technology and development of local skills, and improving the energy management cycle.

The Colombo Plan countries would be engaged in the next few months in working out a framework for cooperation in the field of development of rural energy resources. They are expected to carry out detailed studies of their respective individual needs and priorities. These studies would then be coordinated by the Plan's Bureau based in Colombo and debated in the coming meetings in a more concrete form.

The Jakarta meeting also reviewed the general activities of the Colombo Plan in forging economic cooperation. It was observed that its activities on Technical Cooperation, its major field of operation, had increased considerably of late and in 1979 amounted to \$297 million. Most delegations are said to have emphasized that technical cooperation, including training, should remain the main focus of the Plan's activities and that maximum use to be made of regional capabilities in financing projects in developing countries covered by the Plan. An appeal was also made for the transfer of resources to developing countries as envisaged in the

Brandt Commission Report.

Other economic issues which are reported to have come up for discussion were those related to the establishment of the New International Economic Order such as flow of financial resources on concessional terms from the developed to the developing countries, increase in program aid and commodity assistance to developing countries, liberalization of aid procedures by multilateral agencies, and re-scheduling of debts on long term basis.

Most delegations in their public statements and private comments are understood to have strongly supported the continuation of the Colombo Plan as a regional organization and to have stressed the need for increased cooperation. To this end, the Plan was given a permanent lease of life when the Ministerial Committee decided to extend its life span indefinitely. The practice so far had been to extend the plan's life span periodically, usually for five year cycles.

The Colombo Plan is regarded by economic observers as one of the most successful examples of international economic cooperation. Established in 1950 at a meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Conference in Colombo, it was one of the earliest regional organizations set up after World War II, to promote cooperative economic and social development in the region of Asia and the Pacific.

It had an original membership of 7 countries. Today it has expanded to include 26 members namely Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Britain, Burma, Canada, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kampuchea, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States.

Besides its technical cooperation activities, the Plan also runs a Drug Advisory Program which has successfully helped the regional countries in dealing with the problem of narcotics control. The USA is the major donor to the funding of this program and has raised its contribution to \$150,000 for 1981. The Philippines and Thailand, two of the staunchest supporters of this program, also pledged smaller contributions at the meeting.

Since 1975, the Colombo Plan has been running a Staff College in Singapore which has given courses in technician training to participants from several countries.

The Plan also has a program of cooperation with several international organizations and agencies. The Jakarta meeting for example was attended by the nine international organizations including the Jeddah-based OIC which made its debut at a Colombo Plan meeting.

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Arab cities conference opens in Jeddah

Prince Majed praises cooperation

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Dec. 27 — Mecca Governor Prince Majed opened the 16th session of the Arab Cities Organization's Permanent Bureau at the Al Hamra Nova Park Hotel here Saturday.

In the opening speech, Prince Majed welcomed the delegates and stressed the need for cooperation among Arab capitals to achieve the goals of the Arab Cities Organization. "The organization is capable of providing experts and various services from its experience in the Arab environment, rather than calling in foreign firms that do not know much about Arab customs and traditions or have little regard for it, he said.

Prince Majed lauded the cooperation and exchange of expertise among Arab capitals and efforts to enhance the movement. He said he hoped that Arab cities under (Israel) occupation now will participate in the organization's future meetings.

Among the speakers at the session were Jeddah Mayor Muhammad Said Farsi, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Adasani, mayor of the city of Kuwait and secretary general of the organization; and Tariq Taber, director general of the organization.

The permanent bureau held a preparatory session Saturday morning during which Mayor Farsi was elected president of the 16th session and Khalifa Balibaid,

mayor of Algiers, was elected vice-president. The meeting also discussed financial and administrative conditions in the organization.

The morning session was opened by Mayor Farsi; and Tariq Taber addressed the delegates. The director general said the Arab Cities Organization is determined to achieve its objectives in serving Arab cities and their residents. The need for such services is increasing day by day, he said.

Abdul Aziz Al-Adasani, the secretary general, lauded King Khaled's assistance and that of Crown Prince Fahd to the organization. Delegates from 17 Arab cities are taking part in the meeting. They include Jeddah, Riyadh, Rabat, Marrakech, Tunis, Algiers, Tripoli, Beirut, Amman, Jerusalem, Damascus and Baghdad.



Prince Majed

Kingdom, Tunisia officials meet Social affairs talks continue

TUNIS, Dec. 27 (SPA) — Labor and Social Affairs Minister Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Anqari met with the Tunisian Social Affairs Minister Muhammad Al-Nasser here Friday. The two ministers discussed cooperation between their countries in manpower and social development.

The officials agreed in the meeting that a team of Tunisian experts should visit the Kingdom for further talks on the subject. Sheikh Anqari is in Tunisia to attend the conference of the Arab Labor and Social Affairs Ministers Council that opened Thursday.

Meanwhile, the first session of the conference resumed its meetings Friday and discussed several issues in the context of the implementation of the Arab labor and social affairs joint strategy. The council adopted several recommendations, including a proposal for establishing a fund to support the social organization in the Israeli occupied territories, finding a solution for the social prob-

lems in the south of Lebanon and coordinating efforts of Arab countries in child care and education.

The council also recommended building an institute to train qualified personnel for social care, education and rehabilitation and forming an Arab fund for social work with a capital of \$1 million.

Sheikh Anqari had addressed the opening session of the conference highlighting the Kingdom's efforts in social development and care, the development of the Saudi Arabian child and caring for the handicapped. He said the government's great attention to social affairs resulted in the achievement of considerable progress.

The Kingdom's delegation also comprises Prince Fahd bin Sultan, deputy minister for social care; Rashad Hussain Mukhlis, assistant deputy minister for social affairs; Ahmad Yahya, director general of the Western Region main labor office; and Abdul Mohsen Al-Tamimi, director general of the social affairs office in the Eastern Province.

Government provides liquid fertilizer subsidy

RIYADH, Dec. 27 (SPA) — Agriculture and Water Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sheikh issued a decision Saturday providing government subsidies for liquid fertilizers.

Abdul Latif Al-Ajaji, deputy minister for research and agricultural development, said the decision was made after the benefits of liquid fertilizers were proven. Liquid fertilizers are considered important for use in increasing production in greenhouses and drip-method irrigation systems. The subsidy conditions applied to other types of fertilizers also will apply for liquid fertilizer, Ajaji added.

He called on farmers and importers of chemical fertilizers to obtain permits specifying the quantity and quality before importing fertilizers.

In a separate development, old water and sewage networks in Dammam and Al-Khobar are being maintained and changed according to modern systems and specifications by the Eastern Province Water and Sewage Department. Abdullah Babatin, director general of the department, said Saturday that several contracts have been awarded recently for the maintenance of

water and sewage networks and replacing unserviceable ones with new networks. The contracts, awarded to national companies, have a total cost of SR49.4 million and work will be completed in 12 months.

Chamber of Commerce granted port warehouses for storage

JEDDAH, Dec. 27 (SPA) — The Chamber of Commerce and Industry was granted an area of one million square meters by the Saudi Arabian Ports Authority for building commercial store-houses. The site, located to the south of Jeddah Islamic port, was prepared by the ports authority and was ceded to the chamber for a nominal lease in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

A spokesman for the ports authority said the site had been linked with a road network, and will be the first phase for more sites if

required by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The move aims at encouraging the private sector to build ideal storehouses away from the populated areas inside the cities, the spokesman added.

The building of storehouses on these sites will help reduce the costs of storage for importers and provide sufficient reserves, in addition to eliminating the fire hazards of goods stored among populated areas. The new system also will help in reducing traffic pressure inside the cities, usually caused by large trucks, the spokesman said.

Briefs

Bankers meet

JEDDAH, Dec. 27 (SPA) — The board of the Islamic Development Bank began its 47th session here today. The meeting discussed financing of development projects in member countries and preparation of the Agenda for the 5th meeting of the bank's governors, due to be held in Khartoum in February.

Grain sales recorded

JEDDAH, Dec. 27 (SPA) — The Grand Silos and Flour Mills Organization announced that sales of flour in the period between May 15 and Dec. 15 reached to 1.75 million bags of various types of flour, according to Najib Khudr, director of the Jeddah branch.

Lebanese, Kingdom officials meet

BEIRUT, Dec. 27 (SPA) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Boutros received the Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires in Beirut, Abu Bakr Rafie, Friday. They exchanged views on the recent situation in Lebanon during the meeting.

Museums planned

JEDDAH, Dec. 27 — The Department of Museums of the Ministry of Education will build 14 new regional and local museums in various parts of the Kingdom, in addition to two museums in Mecca and one in Medina.

Prayer Times

SUNDAY	Mecca	Medina	Njed
Fajr	5.32	5.39	5.11
Ishraq	6.57	7.07	6.36
Dhuhr	12.22	12.23	11.55
Asr	3.27	3.23	2.54
Maghreb	5.49	5.43	5.14
Isha	7.19	7.13	6.44

COMMENT

By Abdullah Omar Khayyat
Al-Jazirah

Although we have long eastern and western coasts, and an abundance fish wealth, we continue to suffer from the price hike in fish market, mainly in coastal towns. The situation often assumes such proportions that it becomes difficult to get good, fresh fish in the markets.

The situation in other urban areas is worse, since fish in those places have become the best and the most precious gift for any of your relatives and friends! The reason appears to be the absence of modern means of fishing. To be more precise, you can say that there is no regularized fishing activity on behalf of official circles.

According to a recent press report, an official of the Saudi Arabian Fishing Company said after a meeting that the Board of Directors has discussed a number of topics and its recommendations included a provision for signing a

contract for the supply of a full-fledged fishing fleet in the Red Sea and the Gulf to ensure a quick catch and to put them on sale in the markets. The official said the expected fish production would cover the markets of the Eastern, Central and Western Provinces. He added that the company's future program includes a considerable increase in the output, to be able to supply fish in every region in the Kingdom. In this way, the company would effectively contribute in the supply of fresh fish to the local markets, he said.

I believe that the company's task should not only be to help in the supply of fish, but also to work to see that fish is available in the markets. As a matter of fact, fish has become almost non-existent in the markets, with the exception of the imported stuff or those angled by individuals. This is the reason why the prices of fish soar high and often keeps the markets poorer in the supply of fish.

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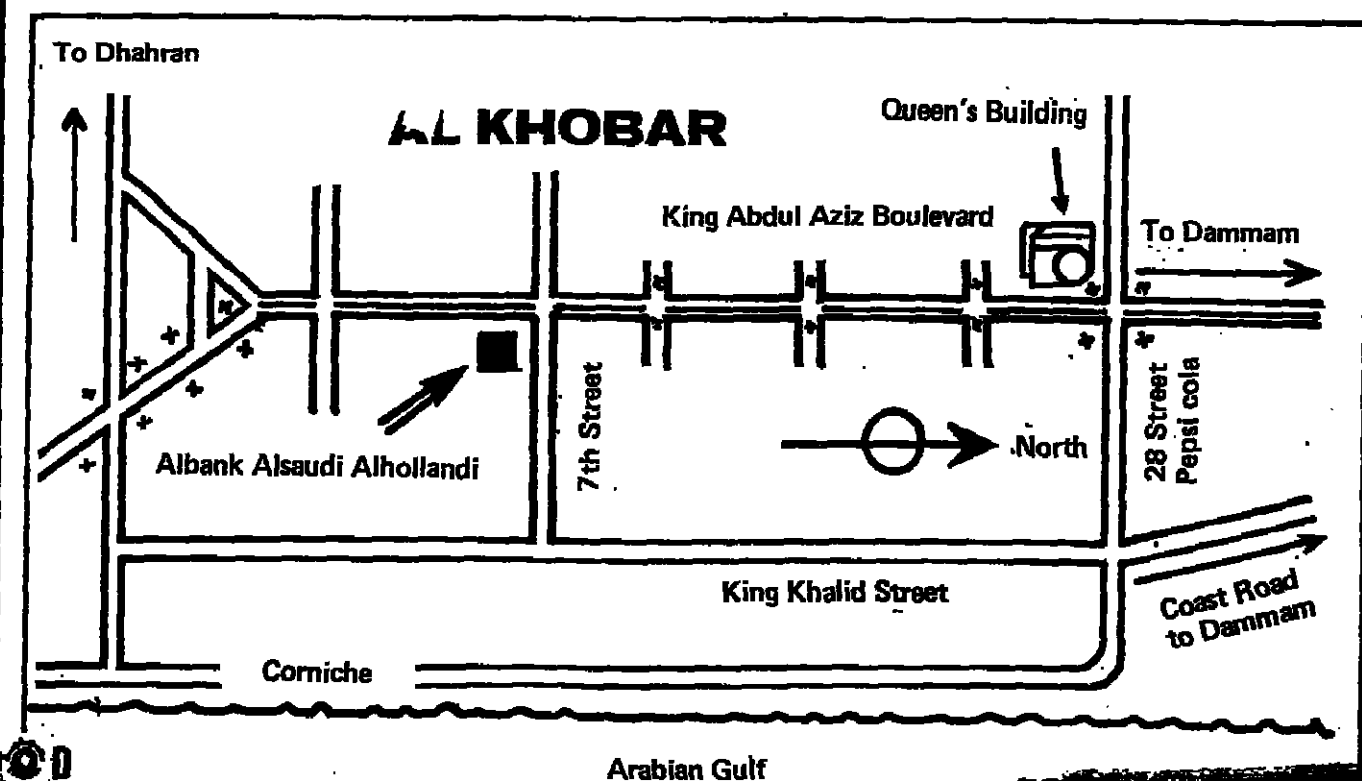
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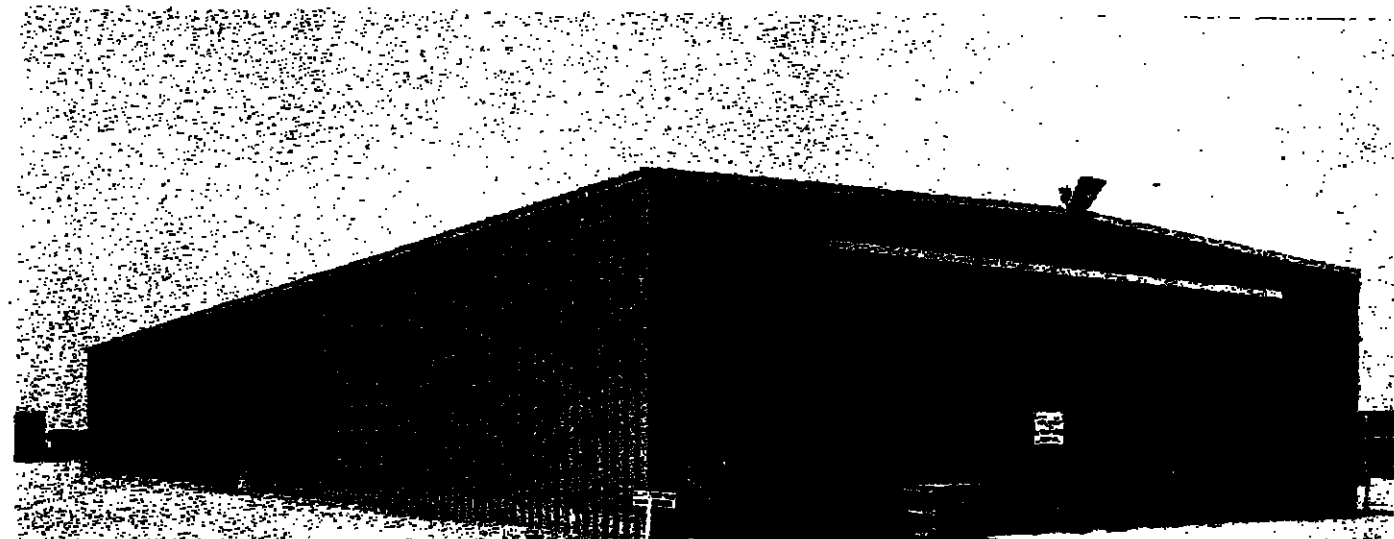
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UAE aide declares

Muslim states to continue efforts to halt Gulf conflict

DACCA, Dec. 27 (AP) — United Arab Emirates State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi has said the Muslim countries will continue to do their best to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Talking to reporters at Dacca airport on arrival for a three-day visit to Bangladesh Friday Al Nuaimi said "It is sad to see Muslim brothers fighting each other."

He said he will discuss with his Bangladesh counterpart, apart from bilateral relations, the proposed Islamic summit in Saudi Arabia next month and regional security.

Al Nuaimi will lead his country's delegation to the first joint Bangladesh-UAE commission on economic cooperation beginning in Dacca Saturday.

Meanwhile, Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini said Friday Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was "in a state of madness" and accused the superpowers of trying to "separate the Muslims," Tehran radio reported.

Khomeini was speaking from his headquarters in Tehran to a group of Arabic and Farsi-speaking Iranian nationals from the oil-rich Khuzistan province and Kurds from northwestern Iran where Iraq recently penetrated opening a new front along the common border.

Commenting on the fourth month war with Iraq, Khomeini said: "It is an immature to think that he (Hussein) could destroy Iran in one week. He could not even get Khuzistan which is only a section of Iran." He added, "Now he is nervous and in a state of madness. He wants to achieve victory in whatever means."

Iraq has claimed its invading forces have seized one third of Khuzistan which has an area of 24,000 square miles where daily battles have been raging in the provincial capital, Ahwaz, the highway town of Susangerd and the southern oil center of Abadan.

Iraq insists on calling Khuzistan, Arabistan, due to its large Arabic speaking population. Iran has accused Iraq of instigating the Arabs in Khuzistan to rebellion against the Islamic regime in Iran.

"These insurgents under the cover of nationalism are trying to cause dissent among the Muslims. They are the enemies of the Koran," Khomeini said.

Khomeini also charged the superpowers were planning to "separate the Muslims into groups of Turks, Kurds, Arabs, Persians. They want to make them enemies of one another. This is contrary to the path of Islam," Khomeini said, adding all Muslims were "brothers and equal."

He also accused Iraq of supporting the superpowers and Hussein of being "their servant."

Khomeini, in an earlier speech, had accused "counter revolutionaries" of penetrating all levels of society. The warnings come at a time when Iran is torn by a power struggle between secular moderates backing president Abulhasan Bani-Sadr and clergy-oriented supporters of Prime Minister Muhammad Ali Rajai and the Islamic Republican Party.

Iranian forces have also been cracking down on Kurdish insurgents, who have been accused "of counter-revolutionary activity against Iranian forces in Kurdistan."

Libyan role played down

Goukouni denies Chad invasion

N'DJAMENA, Dec. 27 (R) — President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad, trying to allay international fears provoked by Libyan involvement in his country, denied Friday that Chad had been invaded. He also made plain that he welcomed the omission of any mention of Libya in the communiqué of an African summit on Chad in Lagos last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Goukouni has said that his victory over rebel leader Hissene Habre in the nine-month Chad civil war was achieved thanks to Libyan aid. But he has played down the military role of the Libyans, referring to the Libyans now in Chad as "technicians."

Several African states, in particular neighboring Niger, have been deeply disturbed by Libya's role in Chad, but the Lagos summit failed to agree "to condemn it outright. Seven out of 12 countries attending refused to sign the final communiqué, saying that it did not

take a firm enough stand against Libya. Goukouni told reporters Friday that he attended the Lagos meeting only because Nigeria insisted. Informed sources said that Nigeria sent an emissary to N'Djamena just before the conference and Goukouni flew to Lagos in a Nigerian plane.

Goukouni said he went to the meeting on the understanding that Habre would not be present. He said that Chad would ask for the extradition of Habre who would be tried as a "great criminal," although he did not specify the charges.

Earlier this week government officials claimed that Habre had massacred an unspecified number of prisoners.

Goukouni said he thought Habre was now in Cameroun. But, asked whether Chad had an extradition treaty with Cameroun, he said: "We will have to dig into the archives."



ADDRESSES STUDENTS: This photo released by the official Iranian news agency Pars, shows Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini addressing a meeting of university students and clergy last week, to mark the occasion of students-clergy unity day.

215 killed in Turkey since coup

ANKARA, Dec. 27 (AFP) — The National Security Council, which has controlled Turkey since the coup of Sept. 12, reported Friday that 215 people had been killed and 8,500 arrested in the last three months in the course of "terrorist actions or anti-terrorist operations."

A council spokesman said that since the coup "extremists" had killed 118 people. He added that 368 people were wounded in the "2,964 acts violating the state-of-siege decrees" of the security council.

In addition, according to the spokesman, 27 policemen were slain and 70 "extremists" died in various clashes. In the three months

preceding the coup, 929 people were killed. The spokesman also reported that the 8,500 people arrested following the coup were among 30,000 questioned by security officials.

Among the legal charges filed after the arrests were 1,550 for "illegal posting of signs or distribution of tracts," 245 for attacks with explosives, 337 for armed attacks or clashes with security officials, 19 for participation in demonstrations, 400 for holdups and 415 for fighting or threats.

The spokesman said that security forces had seized 7,470 firearms, 225,000 rounds of ammunition and 2,963 grenades or bombs.

BRIEFS

TEL AVIV, (AP) — Israel's military chief of staff has blamed Syria for the fighting between Israeli-backed Christian forces and Palestinians in southern Lebanon and hinted that Israeli soldiers might clash with Syrian troops on Lebanese soil. "I never saw a red line between us and the Syrians on any map," Lt. Gen. Raphael Eytan told an army radio interviewer Friday.

CAIRO, (AFP) — Egyptian writer and philosopher Tawfik El Hakim is to sue Radio Monte Carlo and the Egyptian artist Nagwa Fouad for libel in the sum of \$250,000, the newspaper *Al-Gumhuriya* reported Saturday. The dancer had called El Hakim "greedy" in an interview with the radio's Arab language service, the newspaper said.

TEL AVIV, (AP) — Colombia's Minister of Defense Gen. Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, arrived Friday for a week-long visit as a guest of the ministry of defense. The minister, who was greeted by Deputy Defense Minister Mordecai Zippori, will visit army installations, military and aircraft industries and holy places.

RABAT, (AFP) — Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid returned here Friday from a four-day official visit to Tunis after signing a bilateral trade and customs agreement. During his visit the two North African states, which are geographically separated by Algeria, decided to set up a shipping line serving both themselves and other states.

End hunger strike

Kawasmeh, Milhem to return to Jordan

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 27 (Agencies) — Two Palestinian mayors, having ended a hunger strike, said Friday they planned to return to the Middle East early next week without much hope that Israel will soon allow them back to the West Bank of the Jordan River.

"We are sure (U.N. Secretary-General Kurt) Waldheim and the Security Council will not spare any efforts to work for our return," Mayor Muhammad Milhem of Halhoul told a reporter. "But our experience with the Israelis is that it is difficult for them to change."

Milhem and Mayor Fahd Kawasmeh of Hebron ended a five-day sit-in at U.N. headquarters on Wednesday at Waldheim's request.

Earlier Wednesday, the National Council of Churches, comprised of 32 Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the United States, appealed to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to allow the mayors to return home. The U.N. Security Council on Dec. 19 unanimously passed a resolution urging the same course on Israel.

Milhem said he and Kawasmeh would first fly to Beirut and then go on to Amman for a reunion with their families.



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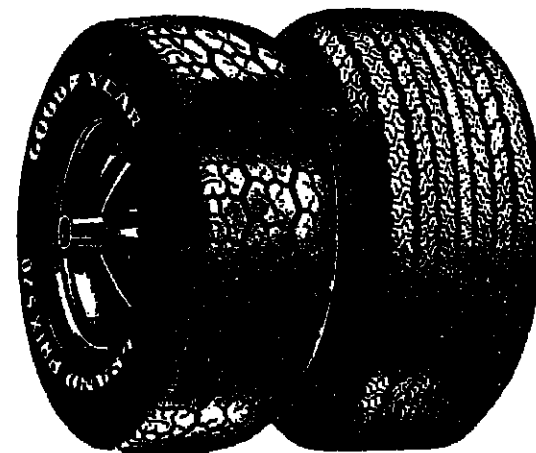
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Italian party endorses call for prison shutdown

ROME, Dec. 27 (AP) — Italy's Socialist Party, in effect, has endorsed a Red Brigades demand for the shutdown of a maximum security prison for violent politicals further weakening the fragile unity within the two-month-old coalition government of Christian Democrat Premier Amaldo Forlani.

The Red Brigades, Italy's most feared leftist political group, kidnapped a prominent magistrate two weeks ago in the gang's first political abduction since its members seized former Premier Aldo Moro in 1978, held him for seven weeks and killed him.

Although the kidnappers have not delivered terms for the release of Giovanni D'Urso, they have demanded that the special prison on Asinara Island off Sardinia be closed down. D'Urso's responsibilities included assigning convicted politicals to maximum security prisons.

The Socialists, Italy's third largest party and a partner in Forlani's four-party coalition, issued a statement on Christmas Day calling for the closing of the Asinara prison for "humanitarian reasons." The party and its leader Bettino Craxi had favored negotiations with the Red Brigades after Moro was kidnapped, but its statement Thursday said the party was not proposing a dialogue with the Brigades but merely restating its position made known earlier this year — that the prison fails to meet "the minimum criterion (for a prison) from a humanitarian viewpoint."

It did not elaborate, but party sources said

they were objecting to the practices of solitary confinement at Asinara and the facility's elaborate surveillance system which includes monitoring of the prisoner's movement around the clock.

There was no official response from the Christian Democrats, but the coalition's two other partners — the Republicans and Social Democrats — accused the socialists of breaking out of the ranks to score publicity points.

In statements, they noted that the closing of the Asinara facility has been under consideration by the government for some time — not so much because of the inmates' protest but for the welfare of the guards serving at the stark gray fortress on a windswept island.

Scientific Research Minister Pier Luigi Romita, a Social Democrat, said he favors the eventual closing of the Asinara facility but not as a concession to the Brigades. The Republicans voiced a similar concern, saying the timing of the Socialist statement was unfortunate.

Giscard visits troubled Guadeloupe

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe, Dec. 27 (AFP) — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing traveled to Guadeloupe from Martinique Saturday morning amid official fears of separatist violence following the Wednesday night bombing at a government radio station.

The bombing at the station, considered a symbol of French presence, was believed related to the French president's visit. Responsibility for it has not been claimed. The president was expected to meet with local officials and discuss incidents since March allegedly committed by the separatist Armed Liberation Group of Guadeloupe.

Populace wants Bokassa returned

BANGUI, Dec. 27 (R) — Former Emperor Bokassa's sentence to death in his absence for multiple murders and cannibalism has failed to convince the 1.8 million people of the Central African Republic that justice is being done, observers said here.

They said there was resentment over repeated failures by President David Dacko's government to extradite Bokassa from the Ivory Coast. Bokassa ruled the Central African Republic ruthlessly for 14 years before being

Tanzania seeks entry

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania, Dec. 27 (AFP) — Tanzania has appealed to Kenya to let Tanzanian officials cross their common border to determine the nationality of 22 alleged cattle rustlers who were shot dead by Kenyan police last Monday. The appeal followed the refusal by Kenyan border officials to allow Tanzanian police through the Barangouja border post.



Bettino Craxi

Fears of more violence are based on the fact that the presidential visit coincides with the Dec. 31 ultimatum by the group demanding that the French on the island "pack their bags." The ultimatum said that afterwards the French would be considered "enemy targets of the people of Guadeloupe and dealt with as such."

Guadeloupe, a group of islands in the Lesser Antilles, has been a French possession for most of the past 345 years and has a population of more than 300,000 persons. It is one of France's few remaining overseas dependencies.

deposited in a French-backed coup last year.

A criminal court here on Wednesday stripped Bokassa of all his titles, including that of self-proclaimed emperor and army marshal, and confiscated all his property. The observers said many people in Bangui resented clemency given by Dacko, a distant relative and one-time aide of Bokassa, to other former aides.

They said two former ministers involved in the killing of schoolchildren on Bokassa's orders last year, which led to an international outcry, had recently been released from detention.

They added that there was some anger that none of the 10 people condemned to death for crimes against the nation when they were aides of the emperor had so far been executed. They said Bokassa's sister Catherine, who was sentenced to jail for abuse of authority, had also been released.

Bomb traces found on jet in Colombia

BOGOTA, Dec. 27 — There was an explosion in one of the two restrooms on the jetliner that crashed in northern Colombia last Sunday, which may have been caused by a bomb, the manager of the airline said Friday.

Alfonso Sathez said in a broadcast interview that this was the conclusion of investigators for the airline, Aerovias Del Cesar. All 68 people aboard died in the crash.

Investigators have reconstructed enough of the plane and have found sufficient traces of explosive material to determine that there was an explosion in the restroom on the left side and at the rear of the plane, Sanchez said in the interview with the Bogota radio station Caracol.

The possibility of the explosion being caused by a cargo of fireworks rumored to have been on board is not being discounted, Sanchez said. The explosion aboard the French-made Caravelle jetliner knocked out the plane's hydraulic system, leaving the pilot unable to guide it or otherwise control it, Sanchez said. Three witnesses who saw the plane going down said they saw smoke coming from the left rear side of the aircraft and not from the engines, Sanchez said.

He said the company received three telephone calls from anonymous callers after the plane crashed, warning that the airliner would not reach its destination.

Suspected Nazi seen in Uruguay

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 27 (AFP) — Accused Nazi war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele has been sighted in Uruguay, where he has served as a technical adviser in a political prison, reliable sources arriving here from that country said Friday.

Mengele, who reportedly has traveled freely between Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, was seen Oct. 20 at Liberated Prison in Montevideo, according to the sources, who asked not to be identified. The sources said the alleged former concentration-camp doctor, who has been charged with conducting experiments on deportees during World War II, was seen in a meeting with Lt. Col. Fausto Gonzalez and Maj. Marim Mourino, the Libertad Prison administrators. Mengele was using the name Willy Karp, the sources said.

Another German who reportedly was a member of the jail's staff also participated in the meeting, the sources said. Identified only as Gordon, the second German was said to have served in the SS police during the war. Also present were the prison physician, identified as Dr. Genta, and a psychologist and a psychiatrist, according to the sources.

Mengele is perhaps the last of the top Nazi henchmen still at large.

2 arrested in art theft

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 27 (AFP) — Two museum employees were arrested here Friday following a spectacular art theft at Thursday, the National Museum of Fine Arts, police sources said.

Police questioned all the staff at the museum after the \$24 million robbery was discovered the day after Christmas. Two people were jailed when their testimony was contradictory, the sources said.

The thieves, taking advantage of building repairs, entered through the roof and made off with 16 paintings — including three by the French impressionist Auguste Renoir — and seven other art treasures.



'GOLD' IN RUBBLE: Museum director Stafford Crossland examines bones he says may be 30,000 years old. Archaeologists found them in a trash dump near Ft. Morgan, Colorado.

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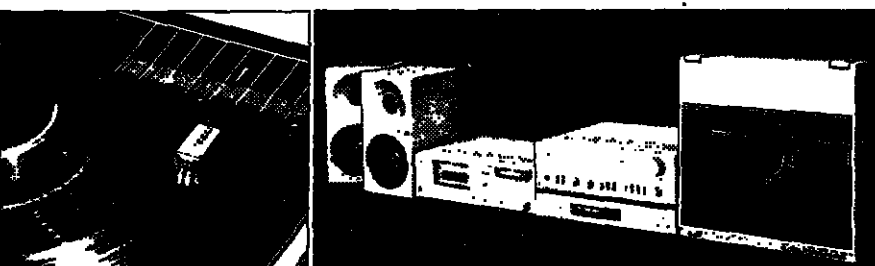
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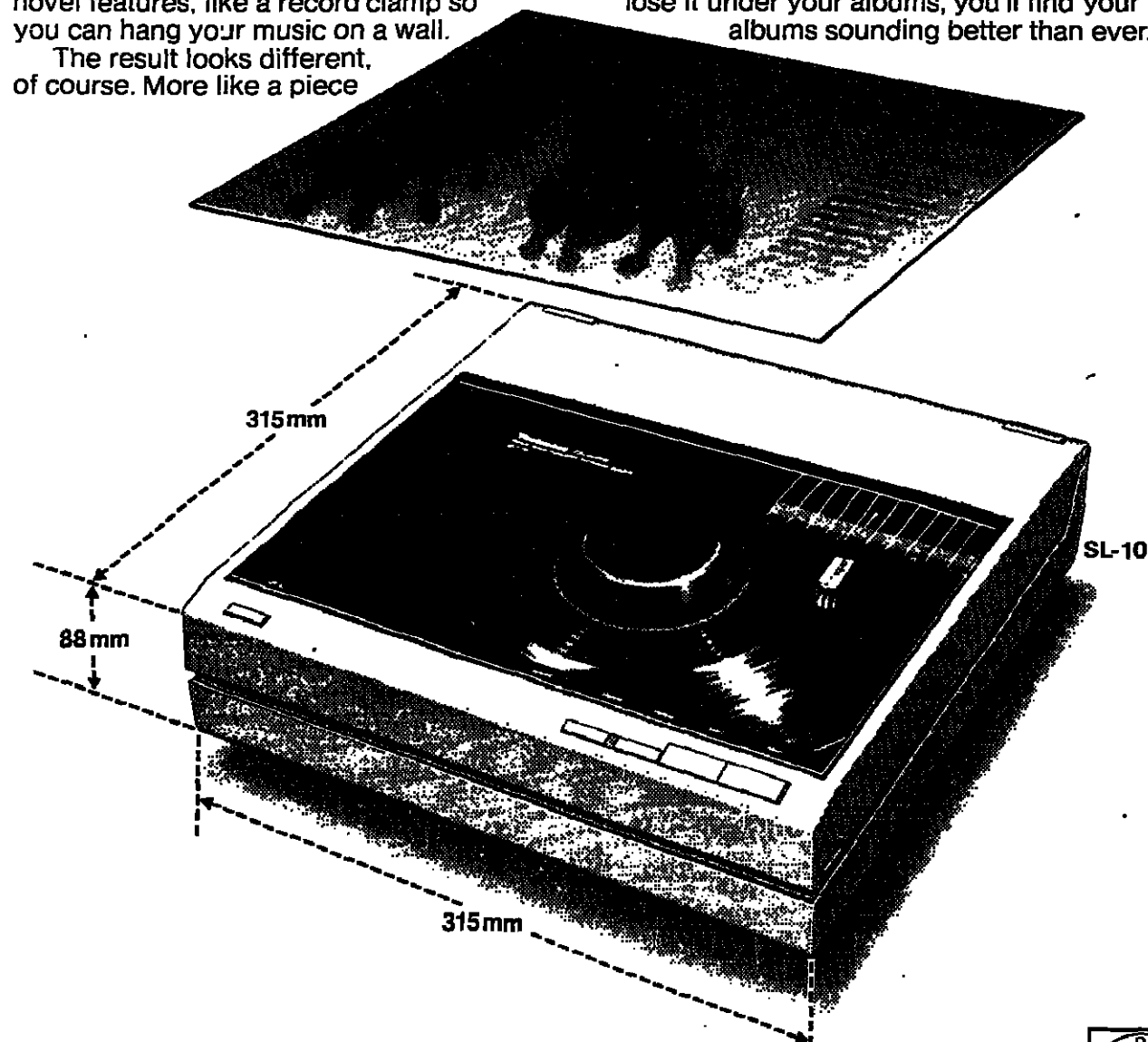
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Liverpool held by United

Ipswich, Villa win

LONDON, Dec. 27 (R) — Liverpool retained their leadership of the English First Division soccer league by the most slender of margins when they were held to a goalless draw at Manchester United Friday.

With nearest rivals Aston Villa and Ipswich both winning at home, Liverpool are

perched on an uncomfortable cushion at the top although they should return to their winning ways against visitors Leeds Saturday.

Villa, who beat Stoke 1-0, and Ipswich, who despatched Norwich 2-0, edged near the leaders, but both face hazardous away trips Saturday afternoon.

Ipswich visit fourth-place Arsenal while Villa meet European champions Nottingham Forest who emphasized their return to form with a crushing 4-1 win at Wolverhampton.

Liverpool and Villa both have 33 points from 24 games and although their goal difference is identical, the champions fill top place because they have scored more goals.

Liverpool and Manchester United may have produced no goals but they treated the 57,053 crowd, the biggest league attendance in Britain this season, to an enthralling 90 minutes.

Villa striker Peter Withe made a triumphant return after a three-match suspension by scoring the only goal of the game against Stoke.

Ipswich are just one point behind and the two leaders will find little comfort in the knowledge that the third placed club has two games in hand.

Ipswich's Scottish international duo John



HIGH: Garth Crooks, Tottenham striker jumps above Forest defender Joe Needham in an earlier league match. Crooks scored twice for Tottenham on Friday.

Wark and Alan Brazil, who have scored so many vital goals this season, were the men who shot down Norwich.

Brazil struck in the 43rd minute after a superb passing exchange with Eric Gates and Wark added the second in the 49th minute with a thunderous left-foot shot.

Forest's win lifted them onto fifth place but it was due, in part, to three festive gifts from Wolverhampton defenders.

Colin Brazil, who also conned a needless penalty from which Frank Gray scored. Swiss international Raimondo Ponte scored Forest's fourth with a breathtaking effort.

Tottenham and Southampton do not figure in the league championship battle but they produced the match of the day when they shared eight goals in London.

Striker Garry Brooke, who scored three goals in the reserve match between the clubs earlier this week, which Tottenham won 5-4, was again on target.

Ritchie marks test future

BRISBANE, Dec. 27 (AP) — Twenty-year-old Queensland batsman Greg Ritchie stamped himself as a test player of the future with a polished 75 against the touring Indian cricketers at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday.

Ritchie was the heart and soul of the Queensland innings as he broke clear of an Indian attack that had the home team 29 for two chasing 308.

At close of play on the second day of this four day match, Queensland had reached 259 for nine in a stop-go innings.

Queensland resumed at 10 for none and after six overs Martin Kent, 9 and David Rathie, 9 had already fallen as test left arm Karan Ghavri made use of the heavy atmosphere and the green pitch to move the ball alarmingly.

Ghavri's brisk pace and Queensland on the defensive until Ritchie gave the innings impetus with an entertaining display that sparkled with 11 fours and a six.

Ritchie looked set for a century when his stay was suddenly terminated by Rograj who induced an attempted drive which flew to Sunny Gavaskar at second slip.

India failed to press home the early advantage with Gundappa Viswanath dropping Morgan at 10 and later Wayne Broad at 29.

Morgan carried on to reach 48 before the Queensland innings was sent plunging as four wicket fell in quick succession.

Yograj's lion-hearted 26 overs him a well deserved four for 72, but with Ghavri rested from lunch to tea, the Indian attack had no sting.

Yograj broke through at 156 and 166 and Ghavri returned to bowl the reliable Ray Phillips for four and Queensland hopes of a worthwhile lead had slipped.

But Wayne Broad, recalled for this match steadied the tottering innings with a timely 61 and with Geoff Dymock, 31 not out, added 71 in 70 minutes to hold the Indian attack at bay.

But the innings quickly caved in after Broad disappeared with Jeff Thomson and Carl Rackemann adding nothing to the Queensland total.

Queensland had lost three wickets for one and it was left to Dymock and last man Dennis Lillee to hang on until the close.

Ghavri ended with three for 35 and he showed enough form in his 14 overs to give Australia's batsmen fair warning of his potential in the coming test series.

Queensland went into the match without test players Greg Chappell and Alan Border while talents opening batsman Kepler Wessels was sidelined with a bruised hand.

One day extension declined by Windies

Raja innings allows Pakistan to tie

By Shahid Orakzai
Arab News Correspondent

KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec. 27: Marred by rains and marked by fluctuating fortunes the third test between Pakistan and West Indies in a draw here Saturday.

An unbeaten 77 by stroke maker Wasim Raja coasted Pakistan to safety after Windies battery of pacers ran through the middle order. Scores Pakistan 128 and 204 for 9, Windies 169.

Austin causes major upset

MELBOURNE, Dec. 27 (AFP) — American John Austin, who continually has had to be content to live in the shadows of his young sister Tracy, caused a major upset in the first round of the \$350,000 Moolboro Australian Open by downing ninth seeded Frenchman Yannick Noah at Kooyong Friday.

Noah was humbled 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 on an outside court and immediately caught the first available plane back home to Paris.

For Noah the match was yet another setback to his aspirations of grooming his game to grass.

Noah came to Australia with the prime intention of learning the difference between clay and grass court tennis in order to bolster his chances at Wimbledon.

He has managed to win only one match — last week in Sydney when he defeated Austrian Peter Feigl.

A very disheartened Noah said after Friday's debacle that in order to have any chance of doing well at Wimbledon he must improve his return of serve and speed into the net.

However, while Noah was arranging his trip home, fellow Frenchman Pascal Portes gave French tennis fans something to be proud of when he recorded a surprising four sets win over tall American Peter Fleming.

Playing on the same court that saw Noah's defeat, Portes downed Fleming 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Soccer crowds bigger

LONDON, Dec. 27 (AFP) — Boxing Day crowds at Friday's 45 English matches were up from last year despite the lack of public transport.

Just over 27,000 more fans went through the turnstiles, although there were four more matches last year. Friday's total was 647,817 compared with 620,747 in 1979.

Manchester United's clash with champions Liverpool drew 57,073 to Old Trafford — the best league crowd in Britain this season.

More than 36,000 saw Manchester City end Everton's unbeaten home league record and attendances at Aston Villa and Wolverhampton topped 30,000.

Homeside was seen under pressure throughout the last day as their star batsmen Majed, Miandad and Zahner returned to a pavilion before lunch. All rounder Imran Khan provided some support to Raja who claimed man of the match award for doing it all by himself.

With 41 run first innings lead and 20 mandatory overs for the last hour — enough to chase a low target — the Windies looked optimistic but gave up in the last hour.

Raja losing partners on other end played a rare innings of responsibility, avoiding his typical shots. Eager to keep the strike he allowed tail ender Nazir Junior to score his first run in the 35th minute.

Resuming overnight 70 for one, Pakistan lost four wickets in a short spell of nine runs, after second wicket fell at 76.

Raja was 7 short of his two thousands in test cricket when the two skippers decided to call it a day.

The Windies pacers had some what equal distribution of wickets in this low scoring venture but Colin Croft topped with 3 wickets. Sylvester Clark, Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall shared two each but Clarke gave the minimum runs, 14.

The homeside had offered the Windies to extend the 3rd test by another day after rain delayed it by more than a day and half but tourist did not agree to what could open door to victory.

Pakistan are now left with only one test to equalise the 4-test series.

N. Zealand fights back after controversial umpire decision

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec. 27 (AP) — With the help of an unbeaten century partnership between Geoff Howarth and John Parker, New Zealand had fought back to be in a solid position at the end of the second day of the third test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

In reply to Australia's first innings score of 321, New Zealand overcame early setbacks to be 139 for two at close of play with the not out batsmen Howarth, 54, and Parker, 47.

This pair dominated the final session of play, passing 50 runs in only 51 minutes and their century partnership in 115 minutes.

Jim Higgs had earlier put New Zealand in a spin by capturing the wickets of John Wright for four and Bruce Edgar for 21.

Wright was caught in the slips by Greg Chappell, and when Edgar was dismissed in the final over before tea, New Zealand was struggling at 2-32.

But Howarth and Parker restored to the innings and were in complete command when stumps were drawn.

It was a fine recovery by New Zealand after everything had gone Australia's way in the first two sessions.

Doug Walters scored 107 — his 15th test century from 71 tests, and also figured in a record 10th wicket partnership with Higgs in

tests between Australia and New Zealand. Higgs and Walters put on 60 runs in a partnership lasting an incredible 96 minutes.

In his longest stay at the crease, he scored only six runs, including one boundary, but was unconquered when Walters was finally bowled by Jeremy Conner for 107.

In one over from Lance Cairns, Australia lost the wickets of Dennis Lillee for 27, Rodney Hogg nought and Len Pascoe for nought.

The score was then 261 for nine.

The New Zealanders thought the game was all over with Australia's score at 279 for nine.

Cairns, a medium-pace, sent down a bouncer to Higgs which the tailender ducked, but the ball found the edge of his bat and flew into the hands of wicket-keeper Warren Lees.

Umpire Robin Bailhache then called Cairns' delivery a no ball in line with the intimidatory bowling rule.

This decision astounded and angered the New Zealanders, who were already walking from the field.

Skipper Howarth spent several minutes in a heated exchange with Bailhache before play resumed. Then, with grim determination, Higgs blocked almost every ball as Walters tried desperately to keep the strike as much as possible.

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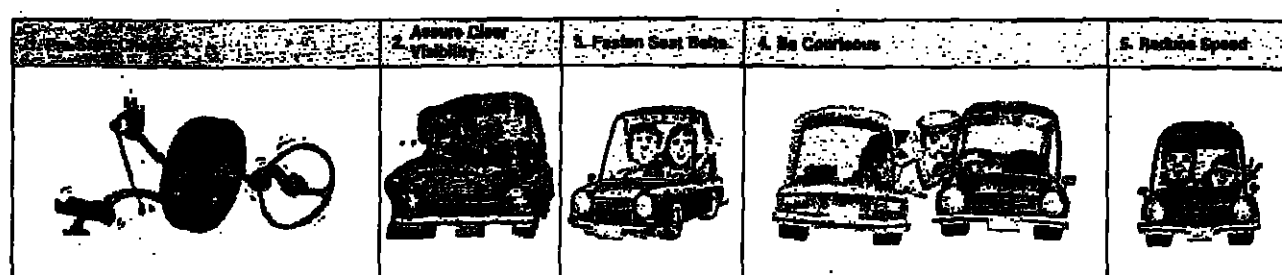
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Splash of color in Manila streets

Army jeeps transformed by Filipino spirit

By Ranaa Siddiqi

MANILA — A flamboyantly colorful innovation that emerged out of the debris of war is the Filipino "Jeepney" which is today one of the most popular modes of transport in the bustling streets of Manila.

Post-war Philippines was faced with an acute shortage of transportation while the US Defense Forces were left with surplus army

vehicles. The drab greenish brown G1 jeeps were overhauled and given square shape. Jeepneys, as they came to be called, were given an elongated body, passenger benches were fitted, hand bars installed both inside and outside and back entrances and mudguards were added to convert them into public transport — all part of Filipino practicality and business acumen.

In line with the color and gaiety of their

phy of their new owners, the custom-building jeepneys to meet individual demands as well as producing their own brand models. Some of them have even set up display areas and claim that the jeepneys do not remain long in these show rooms as demand exceeds supply.

The jeepney engines, steering wheels and differentials are imported from Japan while the body, accessories and surface decorations are locally produced. Mechanics, folk artists and interior decorators are constantly busy improving the performance and looks of the jeepney.

The jeepney artists seem to be a breed of their own. Averse to insipid colors and empty spaces, no part of the jeepney interior or exterior escapes their attention. Body, fender, wheels, mudguards, dashboards, even headlights are ornamented. Varied media including chrome and metallic paint, tooled chrome, silver plating, hubcaps, stickers — you name it, it all goes to beautify the jeepney.

Decorative motifs are also diverse and to a great extent reflect the taste of the driver, who is in many cases the owner of the vehicle. Catering to so many aesthetic tastes, no one jeepney looks like the other. The Filipino jeepney artist is color crazy and leaves nothing untouched by bright, lively psychedelic color schemes.

Dashing names like Rushriders, Special Roadmaster, and Jeepney King are prominently inscribed as a morale booster and refer to the jeepney driver. Mudguards bear the words Super or Super Deluxe; the name of the manufacturer also appears in ornate lettering. Abstract decor is more common, but often landscape is blended with pop art to decorate the vehicle. Most jeepneys are studded with metal horses standing in a U-shaped corral. This is a display of the jeepney's horsepower as well as a good luck charm. Scenes of cockfighting in both metallic and paint are also popular.

Comic strip humor, pinup stickers and flip-pant sayings accompany religious pictures and proverbs on a jeepney deck. Decorative curtains, banners, plastic streamers and wind chimes also reflect the multimedia resourcefulness of the decorators.

The jeepney driver's dashboard reflects his religious, aesthetic and worldly expectations. It is amazing that the drivers can see through the mass of frills, miniature religious shrines, photos, mirrors and novelties on their dashboards.

Once a source of ear-splitting stereo music, it came as a hard shock to the jeepney driver when a ban was imposed on loud music on the road a few months ago. Nonetheless several antennas still wave unsteadily from the jeepney tops.

A symbol of resourcefulness, a piece of native art, a way of life, the jeepney has been affectionately used by famous Filipino artists

and poets for their works. For some years now, it has been featured in promotional projects. Jeepneys in travel books and color advertisements have attracted curiosity-filled admiration. A colorful spot, very popular with foreign visitors, is a jeepney tea shop at the Manila Intercontinental Hotel, which fea-

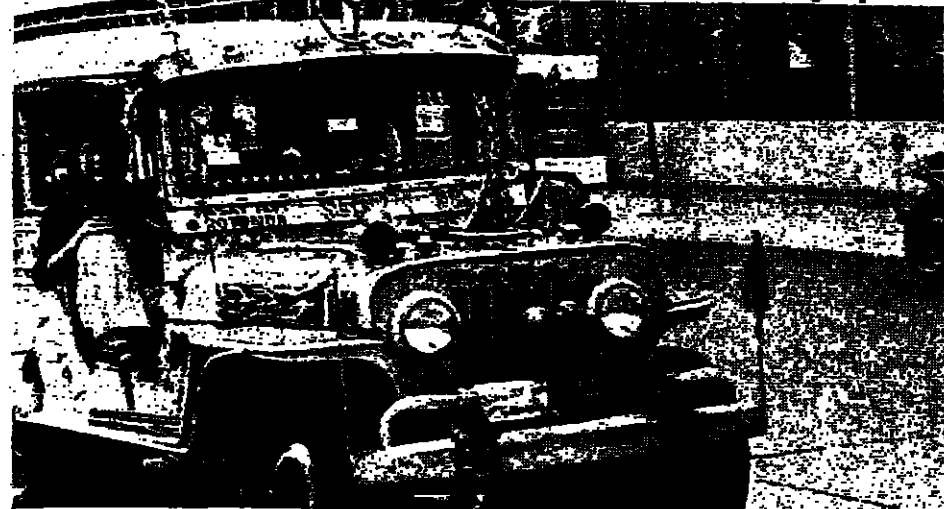
tures an authentic jeepney minus the wheels.

Built to cope with diverse terrain and weather, jeepneys have tremendous staying power and travel merrily over flooded roads and rutted streets where cars and buses often fail. It is for this rugged stamina that many Filipinos keep them as a second vehicle for private use. Private jeepneys stand out by their appearance and "Private" painted on the rear door. As well as its tremendous capacity for people, livestock and luggage during its road running days, the jeepney, after it has been finally fixed and refixed and has done its last run, still does not lose its

usefulness. Without wheels, it is utilised as animal pen, laundry hanger or playhouse.

Time and time again it has been planned by the authorities in the Philippines to ban jeepneys from the streets of Manila. Valid arguments that they consume too much gas, take too much driving space creating traffic jams and are generally a menace on the road have been of no avail. A thing truly and completely Filipino, a piece of folklore, a way of life, it is not easy to phase out the jeepney.

Here is one wartime special that has moved on to perform peace time duties and has no intention of retiring from active service!



DECORATION: It's a wonder the driver can see through his windshield

Jeeps. So, killing two birds with one stone, the Jeeps were sold to the locals at a token price as a temporary solution to the commuter problem.

Built for rugged use, the Jeeps were perfectly suited to the local climatic conditions. Thirty years later, these jeeps are still on the road, though unrecognisable in their Filipino form.

True to the "practical but pretty" philoso-

phical character the new owners gave free rein to artistic creativity and ornamentation in decorating the jeepneys which never fail to catch the eye of visitor to Manila. Indeed, few can resist at least one jostling bumpy ride on a jeepney.

Filipinos are hard pressed to identify the inventor of this utility half jeep-half minibus. Many believe it was the result of the spontaneous ingenuity and resourcefulness of several people while others have accepted the "Filipino Inventors' Group" theory that the jeepney is the brainchild of Clod Delfino. An out-of-work musician in 1945, Delfino is supposedly the person who bought a jeep on borrowed money, reshaped and decorated it and went into the jeepney business.

No matter who the father of the jeepney is, the ingenious idea spread like wildfire and dirtied garages, welding works and auto repair shops soon became busy overhauling and decorating the U.S. Jeep into the Filipino Jeepney.

Today there are more than twenty thousand registered jeepneys operating on three hundred and thirty one routes in urban Manila while an estimated twelve thousand more illegal jeepneys are sharing the thriving business.

The small welding garages and mechanic shops have turned into big enterprises as a result of the jeepney bonanza. Several assembly plants outside Manila in the Las Pinas-Zapote area have a thriving business

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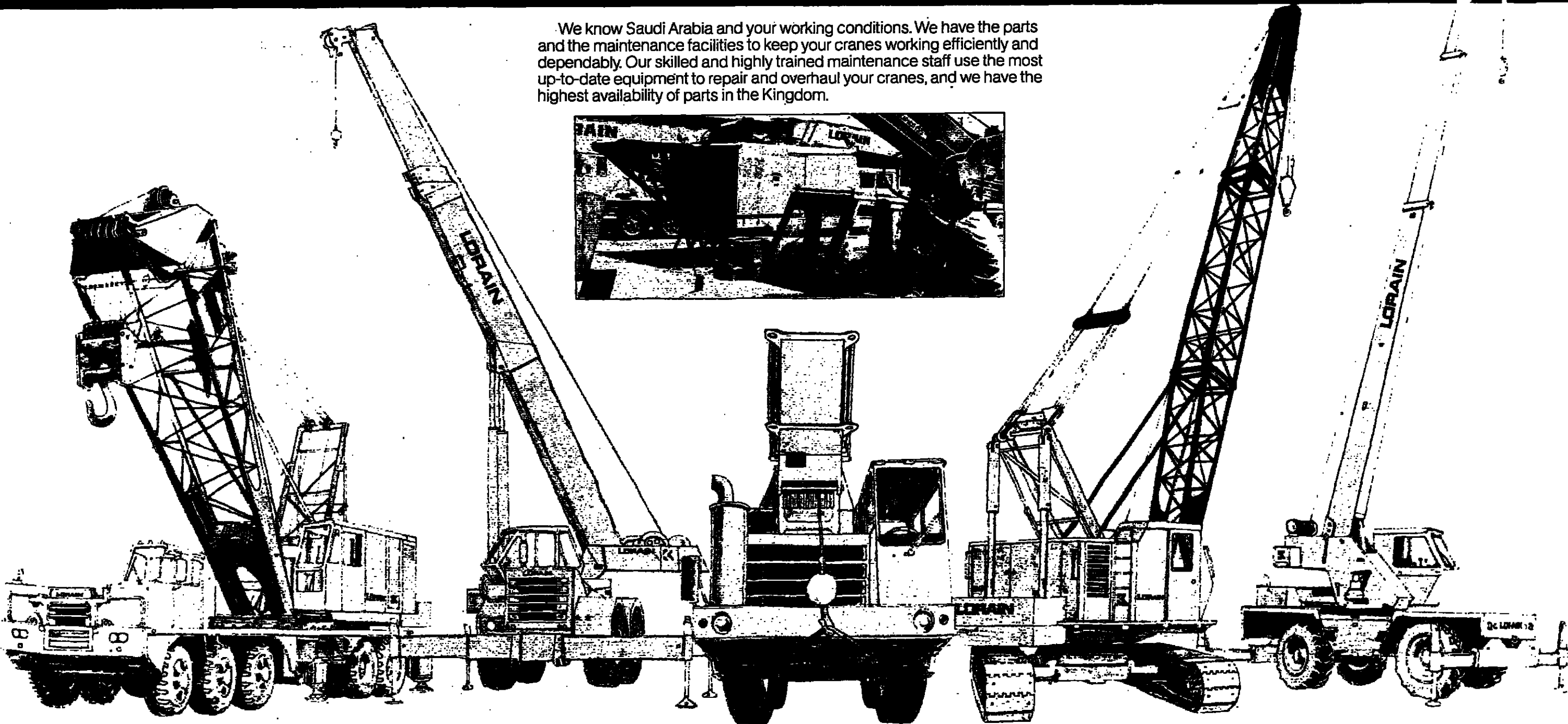
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Shahati says

Libya ready to destroy oil wells for protection

MADRID, Dec. 27 (R) — A senior Libyan official said here Friday that Libya would be willing to destroy its oil wells to defend itself. Ahmed Shahati, chief of Libya's embassies, or people's bureau, said oil was a source of wealth belonging to all humanity but should first be used in the national interest.

"However, to defend ourselves and our honor we would be willing to destroy all our wells and return to an economy based on agriculture", Shahati told a press conference.

Speaking after a meeting with Spanish minister Jose Pedro Perez-Llorca, Shahati, who is on a European tour, said there were countries that used Arab oil while supporting Israel. Libya had decided to combat this situation. Spain was a friendly country that needed more oil and Libya would export more oil here in the coming year, though the percentage rise over 1980 had yet to be decided.

Asked about the reported presence of Libyan troops in Chad, Shahati said Libya

had sent economic and medical aid to the former French colony. President Goukouni Oueddei's government was the legal government of Chad and was in full control. The president took over earlier this month after defeating his rival, former defense Minister Hissene Habre.

Shahati, also said his country will supply Spain with more crude oil in 1981 because "Spain is a friend country."

He gave no figures but said officials of the two countries will meet next January to determine the increase of Libyan crude oil sales to Spain.

According to latest Spanish sources Spain imported more than three million tons of crude oil from Libya in the first nine months of 1980. Shahati said there is an invitation from King Juan Carlos for the leader of the Libyan Revolution, Muammar Qaddafi, to visit Spain but the date will be determined through the Libyan office.

Efforts to extinguish fire of well continue in Poland

WARSAW, Dec. 27 (R) — Polish army gunners succeeded in blasting away most of the wrecked equipment above a blazing oil well as efforts to extinguish the fire continued over the Christmas holiday, PAP reported Saturday. The Polish news agency said about 400 people were taking part in the operation to control the fire in Kartino, northern Poland, which began 18 days ago when an exploratory drill pierced the upper layer of

the deposit. The first attempt by artillery units to shell the rig and other equipment above the well failed because of dense smoke. But PAP said the army was using ultra red wave devices to locate the metal and some 85 per cent of the wreckage was now cleared. Experts wanted to remove the crumpled red hot metal above the burning geyser before the next stage of the operation.

France plans to improve, expand airbus production

PARIS, Dec. 27 (R) — Western Europe's planemaking consortium Airbus Industrie plans to step up production and expand its assembly facilities as it foresees healthy order books to the end of the century. In less than 10 years, Airbus Industrie has grown to become the main rival to America's Boeing corporation in the world market for short and

medium-haul wide-bodied airliners, and has been selling in areas that were formerly American preserves.

The consortium recently achieved a breakthrough when it won a \$900 million contract for the sale of 11 advanced airbuses to Saudi Arabia, which had formerly bought only American airliners.

Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price SR	Closing Date
Ministry of Education	Supply of furniture and various office equipment for the Directorate General of Monuments and Museums	22/T	200	Jan. 17
" "	Construction of primary schools comprising 12 classrooms in different areas of the Kingdom	24/M	3000	Jan. 27
Department of Education, Al-Jazirah	Cleaning of schools	16/10	50	Jan. 11
" "	Construction of an ordinary school ("B" model) in Al-Badai' town	17/10	200	Jan. 11
Municipality of Jeddah	Beautification of Jeddah (20% of the first stage in the first group)	40	10000	Jan. 4
Air Force Command, Riyadh	Fencing of villas at Prince Fahd Air Base in Taif	—	1000	Jan. 12
" "	Fencing of villas at King Abdul Aziz Air Base in Dhahran	—	1000	Jan. 10
" "	Fencing of villas at King Khaled Air Base in Khamis Mesheir	—	1000	Jan. 11

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Dozen firms seek to explore oil, gas in Denmark N. Sea

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 27 (R) — A dozen companies have shown interest in obtaining licences to search for oil and gas in Denmark's sector of the North Sea in what the government hopes will be an accelerated exploration drive starting next year, according to energy ministry sources. Licences will be issued under new legislation to go before parliament in January, following a decision earlier this month to nationalize the Danish sector, hitherto leased out to one private company.

The company, the Danish shipping and oil firm of A.P. Moeller, worked the concession in cooperation with the royal Dutch — Shell group, Texaco Incorporated and the Standard Oil Company of California.

Nationalization followed the breakdown of 10 months of talks in which the government sought greater control of Danish North Sea oil and gas, after criticizing what it alleged was the slow pace of exploration.

The concession, dating from 1932, was obtained by A.P. Moeller in 1962, to last 50 years. So far about 20 per cent of the sector has been worked and the consortium led by A.P. Moeller has made several small finds expected to produce about 40,000 Barrels Per Day (BPD) from next year.

In the failed negotiations, A.P. Moeller faced a government demand that it should

return all unexpected offshore areas to the state by 1990, starting with 45 per cent of the area in 1983. The government also sought the right to purchase 40 per cent of all oil found.

Under the new takeover legislation, A.P. Moeller will be left to continue to exploit areas which it has developed, or is developing, with the rest passing to the state. New companies will be offered licences in the nationalized zone next spring.

A.P. Moeller has responded to nationalization by saying it may sue the government for compensation, a claim which legal experts said could amount to as much as (\$27 billion).

The company said the government action was unconstitutional. Social Democratic Prime Minister Anker Joergensen said it was in the national interest, adding that new licences would be issued regardless of the possibility of long court proceedings. He has a solid majority in parliament to back the takeover legislation.

Danish oil output of about 40,000 BPD in the early 1980s will be a modest yield compared to the two million BPD produced by Norway and Britain. But when Danish offshore gas comes on stream in 1984, the North Sea will be providing 30 per cent of Denmark's total gas needs, rising to almost half by the end of the decade.

BRIEFS

LIMA, Peru, (AP) — The Latin American Arab Bank will double its current capitalization of \$100 million in 1981, the bank reported Friday. The bank, which has its headquarters in Lima, is financed by Arabic banks and offers regional development loans. The bank was created in 1978 as an outlet for petrodollars from the Middle East.

TOKYO, (R) — Kubota Limited of Japan has signed a \$8.5 million contract with Egypt to build irrigation systems in Sharqiya, north-east of Cairo, the Japanese agricultural machinery maker said Friday. The project, expected to be completed by the end of 1981, would create pasture and orange orchards in a 1,900-hectare dry area of the state, it added. Japan had agreed to lend Egypt an undisclosed amount to finance the project, it said.

KARACHI, (AP) — Pakistan has given British Petroleum Development Ltd. of Britain and oil and gas development corp., Karachi, a four-year license to explore and prospect oil resources in southern Pakistan, official sources said Friday.

BUDAPEST, (AFP) — India is to buy \$100 million worth of lignite-fired boilers from Hungary for use in electric power plants, industrial sources said here.

LONDON, (AFP) — The future of British Leyland is threatened by a week-long strike preventing production of the new mini metro car, the only model on which it has founded its current marketing hopes. The strike — backed Friday by the powerful Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) — may lead to the dismissal of 50,000 workers the management said.

China's grain production sharply down this year

PEKING, Dec. 27 (AFP) — China's grain production is sharply down this year compared with last year, the New China News Agency reported Saturday, quoting figures from the ministry of agriculture, the agency said that this year's output was between 309.75 and 314.75 million tons — or ten to 15 million tons less than in 1979.

But this figure does not tally with the official figure given in April this year which said that grain output for 1979 had topped 332 million tons. The agency blamed the lower output on terrible weather in China this year, adding that cereal prices had remained stable "thanks to good harvests in 1978 and 1979 and timely government support in funds and material".

The agency noted that the average peasant's income was still up on last year as a

result of good industrial crops and development of commune and brigade-run industry and "family sidelines". This term refers to private income and was practically unheard of in official parlance after the 1955 collectivization campaign.

The agency did not give the average agricultural income for 1980. China's population, estimated at a thousand million, includes some 800 million peasants. Last year, peasants' average annual income derived from the collective economy rose to \$55. To this must be added income derived from private production and estimated at one third of total income, according to figures released in June.

The figures highlighted a considerable gap between rural and city living standards. City dwellers last year had an average annual income of \$462.

U.S. oil firm held responsible for losses incurred on Algeria

ALGIERS, Algeria, Dec. 27 (AP) — The Texas-based El Paso Co. has been held morally responsible for causing the Algerian state oil and gas corporation Sonatrach to lose earnings estimated at \$290 million, a special Algerian parliamentary commission has determined.

The commission, which released its finding this week, said the earnings were lost in the 10 years following the signing of a contract. The commission was created last December to investigate why the Algerian oil ministry sold Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to El Paso at unprofitable rates for nearly 10 years.

The panel found that Sonatrach had been obliged to sell the LNG at a price of 30.5 cents per million British thermal units (BTU) because of "special conditions." In 1969 El Paso signed a contract under which it would

Romania firm to build cement plants in Iraq

BEIRUT, Dec. 27 (R) — A Romanian company will build two cement plants in Iraq costing \$35 million, the official Iraqi news agency reported Friday. The plants in Anbar province, west Iraq, and the northwest province of Nineveh will each produce one million tons of cement annually, the agency said. The name of the Romanian firm was not given and the agency did not say when the factories will be built.

take delivery of 10 billion cubic meters of LNG over a 25-year period. Deliveries started in March 1978 under the contract, which Sonatrach renegotiated in May 1979 and amended to provide for a new base price of \$1.75 per BTU through June 30, 1983, with the price to be revised every four years.

The commission found that the indexing formula, world inflation and huge cost overruns for the LNG liquefaction plant at Arzew were responsible for making the operation unprofitable.

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Dutch Guilder (100)	157.00	—	158.25
Egyptian Pound	—	4.40	4.45
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	91.00	91.00
French Franc (100)	74.00	74.30	74.10
Greek Drachma (1,000)	—	75.00	—
Indian Rupee (100)	—	—	42.40
Iranian Rial (100)	—	9.50	—
Iraqi Dinar	—	36.00	36.40
Italian Lira (10,000)	16.00	—	16.10
Japanese Yen (1,000)	—	10.88	10.82
Jordanian Dinar	—	12.25	12.26
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	92.40	91.90
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	81.50	81.80
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	—	33.70
Philippines Peso (100)	—	—	44.50
Pound Sterling	7.90	7.97	—
Qatari Riyal (100)	—	91.70	91.60
Singapore Dollar	—	—	1.58
Spanish Peso (1,000)	—	42.00	42.00
Swiss Franc (100)	189.00	189.50	189.30
Syrian Lira (100)	—	77.00	85.50
Turkish Lira (1,000)	—	44.00	—
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Announcement

THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE K.A.U.H. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARABIAN BOARD FOR MEDICAL SPECIALISATION IS PLANNING TO START A COURSE IN BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCE IN FEBRUARY, 1981 FOR FOUR WEEKS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE IS TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEDICAL DOCTORS WHO ARE PLANNING TO SIT FOR THE DIPLOMA OF HIGHER MEDICAL QUALIFICATION OF THE FIRST PART OF THE ARABIAN BOARD FOR MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY.

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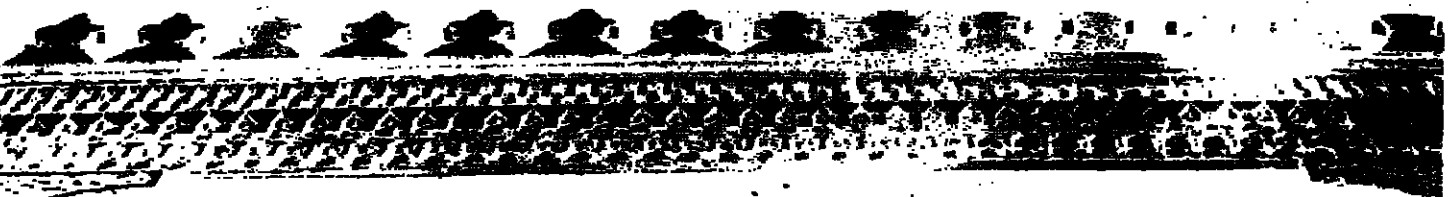
REVIVAL: carved wooden latticework is a traditional feature of Jeddah's architecture, and the city's mayor, Said Farisi, is encouraging the revival of this craft. Khaled Khidr has photographed some fine examples and the work that goes into them.



CARVING: craftsmen work a pattern on a screen, using a wide variety of chisels



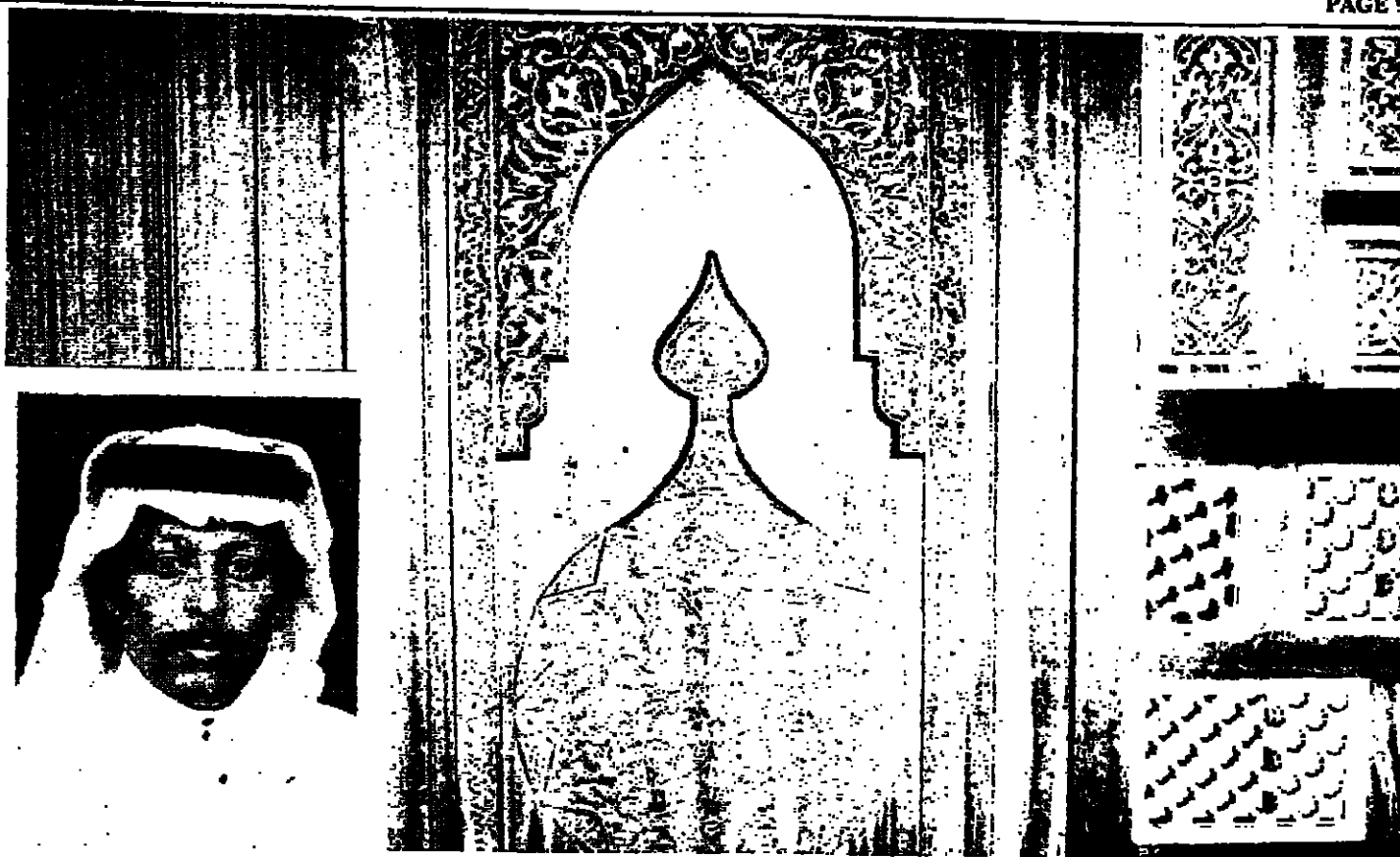
SANDING: a set of latticework windows receives final treatment



CALLIGRAPHY: the inscription is a verse from the Koran



PANELING: a delicately adorned recess and archway



Khaled Khidr

DOOR: intricate carving within a traditional Islamic design



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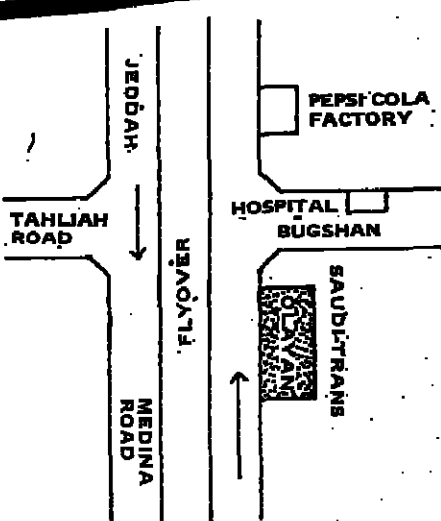
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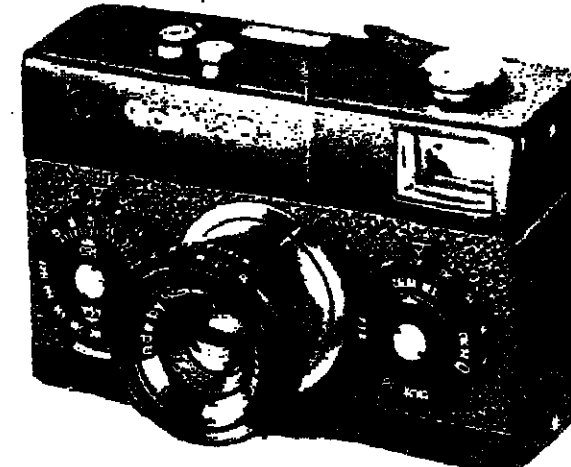
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Protests mark invasion anniversary

Afghans storm Soviet Embassy

TEHRAN, Dec. 27 (Agencies) — Scores of Afghan demonstrators broke into the Soviet Embassy compound here Saturday and at least one person was shot and wounded, police said.

About 5,000 members of Iran's Afghan community marched to the embassy in central Tehran Saturday morning in a demonstration against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan a year ago. Some scaled the high wall around the compound, tore down the Soviet flag and broke windows in embassy buildings.

Police and Islamic revolutionary guards fired in the air when demonstrators pushed back a security cordon blocking the street leading to the embassy. One protester was shot and wounded inside the compound, police said.

The revolutionary guards, mostly young men who were at the forefront of the February 1979 revolution and are now engaged in security duties, drove the demonstrators out of the compound with iron bars. Most of the crowd later moved off towards the Afghan Embassy where security forces again fired into the air. The demonstrators hurled stones and smashed embassy windows, and fights broke out with police.

In New Delhi, about 250 Afghans staged a demonstration in front of the Soviet Embassy Saturday, chanting anti-Soviet slogans and holding large banners denouncing the Soviet military intervention. The marchers joined another 88 Afghans already encamped on the grass mall in front of the embassy, who were continuing a 24-hour hunger strike to protest the Soviet presence in their homeland.

Afghans in Islamabad observed a day of mourning Saturday as a protest against the Soviet occupation. The call for the commemoration Saturday came from Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan leader Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Rabbani said "the anniversary of the shameful aggression by the Russian imperialism on our country is the most catastrophic tragedy in the history of mankind."

Afghan leader Babrak Karmal, meanwhile, claimed that his regime "managed to inflict mortal blows on the counter revolution" in his country in less than a year. But in an interview with, on the eve of the anniversary of his takeover, he told the Bulgarian state news agency BTA that "reaction and imperialism are still waging an undecided war on us."

Despite reports of continuing stiff resistance by Afghan fighters, Karmal, installed by the Soviet Union, claimed his government had been "very successful" in "cleaning" the Afghan territory "from counter-revolutionary elements." But opponents say Karmal's government forces growng, opposition from the insurgents. Anti-Soviet groups, divided but undaunted after their desperate year-long struggle waged from mountain hideouts, have called for a protest



President Karmal

strike in Kabul to mark the anniversary of the Soviet incursion.

Kabul Radio, monitored in New Delhi Friday night, gave no indication that a strike had been called and only briefly mentioned a reception held in the Afghan capital to celebrate Karmal's first year in office. Travelers arriving from Afghanistan said the strike call had been backed by nearly all the insurgent groups. Two of them appealed to their compatriots to wear black arm-bands and fly black flags over their houses in protest.

The appeal, issued from the Pakistani city of Peshawar, also urged Afghans to intensify their struggle.

It was apparent from Friday's Kabul Radio broadcast that dealing with Muslims fighters is a prime preoccupation of the Karmal government. Three of the six news items it

broadcast dealt with the activities of the "terrorists" — the official term used to describe insurgents.

Soviet troops began pouring into Afghanistan on Dec. 24 last year and are now estimated to number between 80,000 and 85,000. But Western diplomatic sources believe they have far from succeeded in controlling the outlying provinces where insurgents frequently mount attacks on government targets and Soviet troops.

One traveler who arrived from Kabul Friday said many of the insurgents now appeared to have better and more sophisticated weapons than a year ago. Two days ago a Soviet plane crashed near Kabul and there were reports in the Afghan capital that it had been hit by insurgents using rockets, he said.

The insurgents also appear to have become more daring. On Dec. 20 they raided an important wedding reception in Kabul attended by several members of the Ruling Communist Party, the traveler said, adding that many people were killed in the attack.

Insurgents have also frequently managed highways linking the Afghan capital with other cities and civilian convoys are now usually escorted by tanks or armored cars. But not all the violence in the countryside springs from the hostility of the fighters for the government.

Three of Karmal's relatives were killed in a shooting incident recently as they tried to flee the country, according to another traveler arriving in New Delhi. Their killers were said to be members of the ruling party. An aunt of Karmal and her two daughters died in the incident at Botkak, 12 km from the Afghan capital on Dec. 15, the traveler said.

They were shot as they were about to leave for Pakistan with the help of the aunt's son, who had become an anti-government activist.

Mystery cloaks 'Gang' trial recess

PEKING, Dec. 27 (AFP) — Mystery hung over the trial of Mao Tse-tung widow Jiang Qing as the special court now trying her and nine other Cultural Revolution leaders stayed in recess for the third day running.

There were no official explanations for this second suspension of the hearings involving Jiang, 67, who is the only defendant still being examined by the court. As there seem to be no technical reasons for the break and as the Chinese do not normally observe Christmas, observers are generally inclined to put the suspension down to political reasons.

Even so it is still impossible at the moment to say what has caused the break in the work of the court, which has the power to sentence Jiang Qing to death.

The former Shanghai actress of the 1930s, who became Mao's fourth wife in the anti-Japanese red base at Yanan, is charged with attempted usurpation of power and persecuting large numbers of individuals during the Cultural Revolution.

One of the most plausible reasons for the current suspension of the trial could be the shakeup at the top of the Communist Party where Chairman Hua Guofeng, the man who succeeded Mao at the head of the party, appears on the verge of being pushed out.

Her attitude, which under the Chinese legal system can hurt her case, resulted in her being thrown out of the court on Dec. 12 after an incident. The hearings were then suspended for four days.

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Rajai calls in envoys on hostages

TEHRAN, Dec. 27 (Agencies) — Iranian Prime Minister Muhammad Ali Rajai Saturday summoned the heads of all foreign missions in Tehran for "a very important announcement" concerning the United States Embassy hostages, diplomatic sources said. The envoys were instructed to come to the foreign ministry Saturday afternoon, the sources said.

Pars news agency said that foreign and Iranian press were also invited to the 4:30 p.m. session.

Earlier, the Iranian cabinet minister in charge of dealings with the U.S. over the hostages opened the door to possible further negotiations over terms for their release. Executive Affairs Minister Beheld Nabavi said in a U.S. television interview that Iran was willing to discuss counter-proposals to its demand for the Americans to deposit \$24 billion in assets and financial guarantees in Algeria.

But he indicated in a separate statement intended for domestic consumption that Iran's flexibility over the release terms would be severely limited. He said on a Tehran Radio phone-in program Friday that the Iranian government could not back down from the four conditions set by the Iranian Majlis.

These included the return of Iranian assets frozen by President Jimmy Carter, and the recovery of the fortune removed from Iran by the late Shah. The \$24 billion would be a guarantee for the return of this money. U.S. officials have described the demands as unreasonable and beyond the legal powers of the Carter administration.

Iran had said earlier at its demands were its final proposals for freeing the hostages, implying that it ruled out further negotiations. But Nabavi's statement that Iran was prepared to discuss alternative guarantees suggested that more exchanges were possible.

The three Algerian envoys who have been acting as go-betweens in the laborious indirect dialogue between Tehran and Washington left Friday for the U.S. capital for more talks. One of the envoys, Algerian Ambassador in Tehran Abdelkadir Gheraieb, was quoted by Pars news agency as saying he "guessed" the Americans would hand over their reply to Iran's demands within three days.

He was speaking after spending near 12 hours with the hostages during which he explained the current state of the negotiations over their fate.

Good Morning

By Jihad Khazen

A friend of mine, an engineering consultant who works in the Gulf leaving his family in a London suburb, thought it best to buy them a guard dog — for company and protection. London is probably still one of the world's safest cities, but you never know.

In any case, the dog, so the family agreed, was a most welcome addition. The children were happy with it, and my friend's mind was set to rest about them in his constant shuttles the Gulf on business.

But on one of his visits to his family, the dog appeared very unhappy. In fact, it was so unhappy that it agitatedly ate up the most expensive Persian carpet in the house, literally ate it up, down to the last thread.

The man was very worried. On the one hand, there were other carpets in the house. Should they be locked up? On the other, the dog might have done itself grave harm. My friend had thought he knew all about dogs, but he had never heard of ones that ate carpets.

He rushed the dog to a vet, who declared the matter to be outside his field. "Question of discipline, not health," as he rather pompously put it. But he gave my friend the address of a dog training school.

At the school, the dog was examined thoroughly and its character declared blameless. Then why, asked my friend, did he eat the carpet. "Ah," came the answer,

"that belongs more to the realm of dog psychology." My friend said that he almost fell off his chair when he heard this. But he was told, and very sternly, that the matter must be looked into with great care.

Questions had to be answered about the dog and its habits and history. Then the trainer began to ask about my friend's own habits and history, his work and family. He protested that "he and his family were fine. Never ate a carpet in their lives. But the dog discipline insisted that he answer everything."

Finally the problem was discovered. It was jealousy, plain and simple. "You see," the self-proclaimed dog psychologist said, "you come home rarely, so naturally your family fusses over you and neglects the dog. The dog is deeply hurt by this. And that is why he ate the carpet. A gesture of protest."

"From now on," concluded the "psychologist," the family's affection has to be divided equally between you and the dog. I can't guarantee that it will eat no more carpets, but at least it will be happy while eating them."

My friend said he never felt so insulted in his life.

"There's a simple solution to this he told himself, and dashed right out that day and bought plastic-fiber carpets. "Try that on for size, dog," he thought.

Translated from Ashraf Al Awad

French curb castle exports

PARIS, Dec. 27 (AFP) — France has taken new steps to curb the exports of its castles by rich foreigners who buy the picturesque mansions to have them taken apart stone by stone and shipped to other countries.

While the French say the situation is not as catastrophic as the post World War II period when dozens of medieval castles, churches and stately mansions were hauled off to the United States, they are worried nevertheless. Parliament recently applied a new measure of legal mortar to the gaps in the law designed to keep the structures in France.

It created a new list of "interesting" buildings that could not be dismantled by their owners without a special demolition permit. Until now, the only structures protected from the risk of being exported were those listed on the official inventory of historic monuments — currently amounting to just over 30,000 and increasing by about 500 a year.

The problem is that there are at least 200,000 other noteworthy buildings in France that lack the "historic" label. So the parliament approved the new measure at the

behest of Michel Debre, former prime minister under Charles De Gaulle and current presidential candidate.

The action was prompted by a wave of castle matchings in the Loire Valley of central France.

The last building to take flight was the Chateau de la Roche, a 40-room neo-Gothic structure built in 1830 and unbuilt in 1979 after the owner found himself unable to assure restoration of the roofing.

India protesters freed

NEW DELHI, Dec. 27 (R) — All 10,000 farmers and politicians arrested in India's western state of Maharashtra Friday after a protest march for higher crop prices have been released, police said Saturday.

Police made baton charges and "rounded up" the demonstrators when they tried to converge on the state assembly building in Nagpur after a 35-km march across the state. Former Industries Minister George Fernandes and the former chief ministers of Bihar, Haryana and Maharashtra states were among those held.

Beggar, cleaning man among winners in Spanish lottery

MADRID, Dec. 27 (WP) — In the southwestern Spanish region known as the Levant, the parish church of the village of Dolores will have a new roof next year, thanks to the generosity of an elderly woman who spent most of 1980 begging outside its ancient portal.

In the nearby village of Benjuzar, the tiny local Communist Party cell plans to move out of its run-down rented offices and start 1981 with the purchase of decent premises. In Palma, on the Mediterranean island of Majorca, the youth who cleans the Hertz Rental Cars at the international airport is poised to buy a luxury apartment for himself, his wife and infant child.

They are some of the lucky ones who have received the windfall of the Spanish Christmas lottery — reputedly the world's biggest gamble, with staggering payouts at stake. Full tickets for the lottery cost 25,000 pesetas (just over \$400) and just about every Spaniard had at least a small stake in a ticket. In this lottery, an estimated \$2.5 billion was gambled for every man, woman and child in Spain's population of 36 million. Prize money totaled

\$550 million and all eyes were set on the seemingly impossible dream of cashing in on the 39 top prizes paying out \$3.1 million for each full ticket.

As celebrations raged, and while bankers, speculators and journalists scoured the country to contact the winners, foreigners could be forgiven for feeling perplexed. "The country is grinding itself into debt, the jobless rate stands at a record high and everyone is buying lottery tickets," observed a bemused American financial analyst in Madrid.

The ceremony held last Monday, when the lottery was drawn, was indeed strange by most standards. Hundreds packed an official building in Madrid where a dozen 12-year-old boys, nattily dressed in dark suits and bowties, all of them pupils at a local orphan's school, held the stage in front of two giant electrically operated orbs that contained numbered table tennis balls. One orb held balls with varying amounts of prize money printed on them, and the other, balls indicating a ticket number, as the spinning orbs came to a halt, one boy would plunge in his hand to pick out a number while the other

picked out the corresponding prize money. Then the orbs would start spinning again as the lucky number and the prize were read out in a nasal singsong chant.

The whole mesmerizing stage piece, lasting nearly three hours, was covered live by Spanish television and radio. When the top prize was announced, everyone knew instantly — the Gordo (the "Fat one," as the top payout is affectionately called) had come up.

In Madrid it made for gloomy faces. Always the biggest gambles in the lottery, the Madrilenos discovered that the top prizes had gone to the Levant and to the Mediterranean islands. But even as they counted their losses, there was not the slightest doubt that gambling would be almost as heavy again in a consolation lottery scheduled for Jan. 3.

Spanish newspapers contemplating the hysteria generated by the Gordo marked it up as one more indicator of the country's economic ill-health. In the same week the government announced a trade deficit of \$11.9 billion, double last year's. The pet conversation subject of every banker and businessman in Spain is the zero growth rate and the rock-bottom investment.

Winning the lottery is the short cut to everything. Savings and even food and rent money are happily gambled, if only to savor the thought of extraordinary riches. Maria Garcia, the beggar outside the church in Dolores, was given \$6 by the parish priest last week to see her through the holidays. She promptly bought a share in a ticket, won \$400,000, and promised her benefactor she would put the church's roof right.

From page one

SR1.65 billion worth of contracts were being carried out or have been awarded in 12 areas of the region, with SR600 million more to be spent in due course.

While the King stays in Qasim and Uniza, Prince Fahd and Prince Abdullah will tour other areas on behalf of the King with Prince Fahd spending a day with the people of Russ and Prince Abdullah visiting Al Bukairiya.

Speaking on this occasion about the educational plans of the region, a senior official said there were 306 schools with 45,000 pupils compared to 214 and 25,000 only three years ago. Twenty-seven other schools of various levels are under construction.

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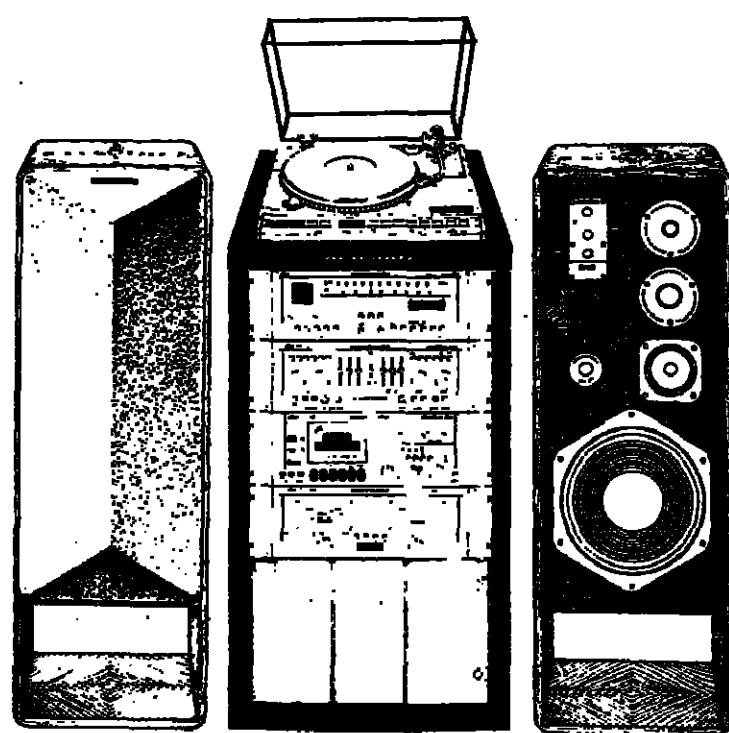
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